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Message Text

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51
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 IO-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /078 W
---------- 049822
R 021234Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1648
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DOHA UNN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, KU, IZ
SUBJECT: IRAQI-KUWAIT BORDER ISSUE

1. THE IRAQI/KUWAITI BORDER ISSUE IS BEING DRAGGED INTO KUWAIT'S CURRENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION CAMPAIGN. PRIOR TO DECEMBER 2, THE BORDER ISSUE NEVER APPEARED IN THE LOCAL PRESS BUT WAS SOMETHING TALKED ABOUT QUIETLY BY KUWAITI POLITICIANS AND OFFICIALS. ON ABOVE DATE, LOCAL NEWSPAPER "RAI-AL-AM" (OWNED BY CONSERVATIVE PRO-GOVERNMENT DEPUTY ABD-AL-AZIZ AL'MASA'ID) BROKE WITH TRADITION AND FEATURED LARGE CARTOON OF HEAD OF WOMAN APPEARING OUT OF SAND WITH MOUTH TAPED SHUT WITH CAPTION "SAMITAH". AL-SAMITAH HILL IS NAME OF BORDER AREA WHICH IRAQIS OCCUPIED AND HAVE HELD SINCE MARCH, 1973. SAMITAH LITERALLY MEANS "SILENT" AND BELONGS TO FEMININE GENDER IN ARABIC. THE CARTOON REPRESENTS A STRONG SLAP IN THE GOVERNMENT'S FACE WHICH IS BEING CALLED A WOMAN FOR BEING SILENT ON ISSUE.
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2. THERE APPEARS TO BE SEVERAL REASONS FOR SURFACING OF BORDER ISSUE AT THIS TIME. IRAQIS ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF KUWAITI CONCERN SPREADING WORD THAT DEFEAT OF KUWAITIS OF IRANIAN EXTRACTION IN ELECTIONS WOULD MAKE IRAQ MORE INCLINED TO SETTLE BORDER ISSUE WITH ITS ARAB BROTHERS. MEANWHILE, THE KUWAITI MILITARY, WHICH IS BEGINNING TO REALIZE IT COUNTS FOR SOMETHING IN KUWAIT, IS ASKING THE GOVERNMENT WHEN THE IRAQIS WILL EVACUATE THE TERRITORY AROUND AL-SAMITAH POLICE POST.

3. COMMENT: IT IS EMBASSY BELIEF THAT, GIVEN ARAB EMOTIONALISM AND THE NEW-FOUND ELAN OF KUWAITI ARMY, RHETORIC COULD GET OUT OF HAND AND PROVOKE NEW BORDER INCIDENT.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 02 DEC 1974
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Disposition Authority: izenbei0
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Disposition Remarks:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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Type: TE
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